**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Lesson 3**

**Ezra Pound’s *In a Station of the Metro* (1913)**

Ezra Pound’s *In a Station of the Metro* is a short, imagistic poem that captures a moment of fleeting beauty in a modern, urban environment. The poem consists of only two lines:

The apparition of these faces in the crowd;  
Petals on a wet, black bough.

In this brief yet powerful poem, Pound uses the modernist technique of imagery to create a vivid, almost photographic snapshot of people in a metro station. The word "apparition" conveys the idea that the faces are ghostly or transient, perhaps evoking the sense of anonymity and impermanence in modern city life. The crowd is impersonal, yet the faces, like fleeting images, appear to materialize briefly before vanishing.

The second line compares these faces to "petals on a wet, black bough," which introduces an organic, delicate image contrasting with the harsh, industrial setting of a metro station.

Pound's use of this contrasting imagery highlights the tension between nature and modernity, and between the individual and the modern world.